

Title: “Beautiful” People**Series: People are the Worst****Genesis 12:10-20**

We are a culture consumed with the idea of chasing/obtaining/restoring beauty.

Ask, When you think about beauty, what picture shows up in your head?

We spend a lot of money on beauty products. (Almost \$100 billion per year)

We spend trying to obtain beauty, yet we despise the beautiful, and then root against them.

We tend to be self-conscious about our beauty. “Oh, this old thing.”

What about beauty in old age? We usually have an easier time thinking of a younger beauty.

Ask, How do you think God defines beauty? (Plant this seed early on and be ready to revisit it towards the end of the session.)

Genesis 12:10-20

Now there was a famine in the land. So Abram went down to Egypt to sojourn there, for the famine was severe in the land. **11** When he was about to enter Egypt, he said to Sarai his wife, “I know that you are a woman beautiful in appearance, **12** and when the Egyptians see you, they will say, ‘This is his wife.’ Then they will kill me, but they will let you live. **13** Say you are my sister, that it may go well with me because of you, and that my life may be spared for your sake.” **14** When Abram entered Egypt, the Egyptians saw that the woman was very beautiful. **15** And when the princes of Pharaoh saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh. And the woman was taken into Pharaoh’s house. **16** And for her sake he dealt well with Abram; and he had sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male servants, female servants, female donkeys, and camels. **17** But the Lord afflicted Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram’s wife. **18** So Pharaoh called Abram and said, “What is this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife? **19** Why did you say, ‘She is my sister,’ so that I took her for my wife? Now then, here is your wife; take her, and go.” **20** And Pharaoh gave men orders concerning him, and they sent him away with his wife and all that he had.

After a long journey, Abram mentions how beautiful Sarai is. (Modern day Turkey to Cairo area of Egypt - about 1000 miles) She is approaching her 90s.

We will do almost anything to try and get and keep beauty

Abram missed the beauty of obedience in trusting God in a tenuous circumstance. Sarai was Abram’s half-sister so he told a half truth. The custom of the day did not consider this incest since the pool was only so large.

Sin appears beautiful and makes promises that it cannot keep.

Beauty alone never satisfies

In her 90s, beauty was not enough for Sarai.

She wanted to help God fulfill His promise of offspring. She was not satisfied.

Genesis 16:1-16 (this is the account of Sarai’s impatience with God’s timing and plan)

You might want to share a time when you tried to get ahead of God in His plan. We are generally impatient and want God to move and act on our time table.

The impatience of Sarai waiting on God's promise - Sarai took an Egyptian servant, Hagar and sent her to Abram to sire their son – Ishmael. The lineage of the Arab people begins here. (Mohammed and the Muslim faith)

What is worse than beautiful people? Impatient beautiful people.

Sin always ruins beauty

Our perception of beauty is something or someone seemingly without flaw. One small flaw ruins it all.

Sin ruins and makes everything/everyone ugly. Symmetry and perfection are gone.

How do you think this statement plays out in your life? Sin and Jesus are life's two great equalizers.

Sin always promises more than it can deliver and sin ultimately leads to death.

James 1:15 - Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

No matter how beautiful you are, sin always makes us ugly.

Jesus makes ugly beautiful.

Jesus always restores beauty

Even when Abram and Sarai jumped the process of God's plan, His grace was offered through the covenant of birthing Isaac which means laughter.

Restoration over creation – we were created in God's image so he restores us back to our original position.

And Abram and Sarai get new names. Abraham and Sarah become the first parents of the Jewish people.

Jesus redeems His creation (us) through His death and resurrection.

Isaac is born and his name reminds Sarah that God is in control. His name means laughter.

Jesus dies for the ugly, sinful bride of the church.

Because God is good at redeeming ugly sinful lives we see that Sarah is still lifted up as an example of faith and is to be emulated. *Hebrews 11: 11 - By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised.*

Here are things the world will tell you are great goals –

- Pursue external beauty
- Harness your inner beauty

God provides us with the ability through His Son to bring Him glory. The beautiful sacrifice of His Son.

We asked this question earlier. During the past few minutes as we discovered beauty in Scripture, How do you think God defines beauty?

Often, we look around think others have it easy, a beautiful life and we are suffering. Consider this:

- There is beauty in the possibility of His mercy and grace in knowing that someone else may not be able to handle the suffering right now.
- Our scars may help others through their times of suffering and there is beauty in the scars.

Receive prayer requests and spend time praying for one another.